

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 02058 01 OF 02 151035Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 /057 W  
-----116648 151043Z /11

R 141555Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHBC 2654  
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, OAU, XA, GH  
SUBJ: OATUU MEETINGS IN ACCRA

REF: (A) ACCRA 1968; (B) ACCRA 1537

1. SUMMARY. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM AF/I, THIS CABLE  
COVERS HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE COM-  
MITTEE AND GENERAL COUNCIL OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN  
TRADE UNION UNITY, WHICH MET IN ACCRA WEEK OF FEB. 27.  
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S  
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES AND SELECTED REPLACEMENTS FOR OFFICERS.  
THE MAIN BUSINESS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL WAS THE PASSAGE OF  
18 RESOLUTIONS, MOST OF WHICH WERE ON TOPICS OF GENERAL  
LABOR CONCERN. AMONG THE MATTERS, THE RESOLUTIONS COVERED  
THE ILO CRISIS, FINANCING AFRICAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, APARTHEID,  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COOPERATION AND TRADE UNION  
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PAGE 02 ACCRA 02058 01 OF 02 151035Z

RIGHTS. THE CONFEREES' ACTION ON THE SITUATION IN  
TUNISIA IS THE TOPIC OF REFTel A. END SUMMARY

2. OATUU HELD ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN ACCRA  
FEBRUARY 27 AND 28, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF  
THE GENERAL COUNCIL, MARCH 1-3. THE 14-MEMBER EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE DISCUSSED THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT OF ACTI-

VITIES, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WOMEN WORKERS' CHARTER AND SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA. THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE CANDIDATURE OF MR. SIWA DIO-BANZA (ZAIRE) AND MR. N.B. MARTIN (GABON) FOR THE TWO VACANT VICE PRESIDENCIES. MR. T. MOISE (CAMEROON) WAS SELECTED TO REPLACE CHIEF E.O.A. ADEYEMI (NIGERIA) AS TREASURER-GENERAL.

3. THE MAIN BUSINESS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE OATUU MEMBERS, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PASSING 18 RESOLUTIONS. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MORE INTERESTING ONES: RESOLUTION 13 ON THE ILO CRISIS REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR THIS ORGANIZATION AND CALLS ON OIL PRODUCING NATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE ARABS, TO CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY TO THE ILO. THIS RESOLUTION NOTES THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ORGANIZATION, BUT DOES NOT URGE OUR RETURN.

4. THE RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING TRADE UNION FINANCES URGES NATIONAL CENTERS TO FULFILL THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO OATUU AND CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY. IN PRIVATE TALK WITH EMBASSY LABOR REPORTING OFFICER, OATUU SECRETARY GENERAL AKUMU NOTED THAT LIBYA HAD ONLY GIVEN DLS 150,000 TO THE ORGANIZATION, INSTEAD OF PROMISED DLS 500,000. AKUMU NOTED THAT FINANCIAL SITUATION WAS IMPROVING SLOWLY, CITING DLS 50,000 FROM OAU AND MORE MODEST CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES.

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PAGE 03 ACCRA 02058 01 OF 02 151035Z

5. IN THE RESOLUTION ON ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID, COUNCIL PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR, TO BEGIN MARCH 21, 1978. RESOLUTION CITES PLANNED WEEK OF TRADE UNION ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID FROM MARCH 13-21, AND ASKS NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTRALS TO CONSIDER ACTIONS SUCH AS REFUSING TO LOAD AND UNLOAD AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS BOUND FOR OR FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND URGING MULTINATIONAL FIRMS TO CEASE COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

6. THE RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION COOPERATION CALLS ON TRADE UNION CENTRALS TO DISAFFILIATE FROM FOREIGN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS AND CALLS ON ICFTU, WFTU AND WCL TO ABSTAIN FROM ACTIVITIES THAT WILL BRING ABOUT DIVISION IN AFRICAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS. IN CONVERSATION, AKUMU SPECIFICALLY CITED THE CONGO, BENIN, SIERRA LEONE AND TUNISIA AS COUNTRIES WITH TRADE UNION CENTRALS STILL ACTIVE IN WFTU OF ICFTU.

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 02058 02 OF 02 150922Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 /057 W

-----115849 151042Z /11

R 141555Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2655

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ACCRA 2058

7. ON MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO GOVERNING

BODY, THE RESOLUTION ASKS THAT ALL AFRICAN WORKERS, CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE GOVERNING BODY, BE PROCESSED THROUGH THE AFRICAN WORKERS GROUP UNDER OATUU AUSPICES. THIS RESOLUTION INCLUDES OTHER MEASURES TO PROMOTE COORDINATION AND PARTICIPATION OF AFRICAN WORKER DELEGATES AND SHOULD ENABLE AFRICANS TO PUT FORWARD A PRE-ARRANGED SLATE OF CANDIDATES.

8. THE RESOLUTION ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS APPEALS TO

AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF GENUINE TRADE UNIONS AND TO RESTORE TRADE UNION RIGHTS WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED. THE COUNCIL ASKED OATUU WITH THE OAU TO DRAFT A CHARTER ON TRADE UNION RIGHTS, TO BE RATIFIED BY THE OAU HEADS OF STATE.

9. ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, THE RESOLUTION DECLARES SUPPORT

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 02058 02 OF 02 150922Z

FOR THE PLO AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. RESOLUTION CONDEMNS NEWLY APPROVED ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND ALLIANCE

BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA. A SEPARATE RESOLUTION  
ON AFRO-ARAB TRADE UNION COOPERATION APPEARS TO ADD  
LITTLE TO EXISTING TIES IN THE LABOR FIELD.

10. COMMENTING ON OTHER MATTERS TO LABOR OFFICER, AKUMU  
NOTED THAT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD APPROVED THE HIRING OF  
FORMER UNION OFFICIAL FROM ETHIOPIA TO WORK AT AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
LABOR CENTER ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER IN  
LOME. THIS IS A FOLLOW-UP ON AALC-OATUU AGREEMENT OF  
JANUARY 1977, UNDER WHICH OATUU IS TO EVENTUALLY ASSUME  
CONTROL OF LOME CENTER. REGARDING MERGERS OF CENTRAL  
LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, AKUMU OBSERVED THAT CONFEREES URGED  
OATUU TO WORK FOR SUCH MOVES IN LIBERIA AND THE GAMBIA.

11. THE SITUATION IN TUNISIA (REFTELS) AND THE USUAL  
POLITICAL TOPICS -- AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, APARTHEID  
AND THE MIDDLE EAST -- WERE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETINGS.  
MOST OF THE RESOLUTIONS COVERED MORE GENERAL LABOR  
CONCERNS, HOWEVER, SUCH AS TRADE UNION RIGHTS, WORKER  
EDUCATION AND MIGRANT WORKERS. THE COMMENTS OF OATUU AND  
GHANAIAN LABOR OFFICIALS ABOUT THE MEETINGS  
HAVE BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE. WE ARE AIRPOUCHING THE  
GENERAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND 107 PAGE OATUU REPORT OF  
ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS OATUU REPORT OF THE  
ARAB-AFRICAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, HELD IN ALGIERS IN  
OCTOBER 1977., ATTN: SLEZAK, AF. SMITH

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## Message Attributes

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